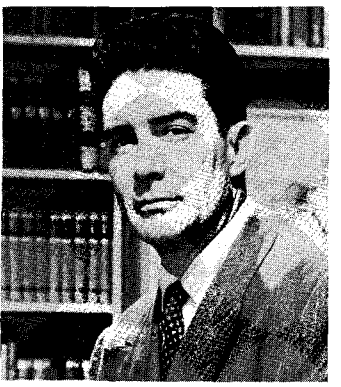
THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 10, No. 15 (Broadcast 451) April 13, 1964 Dallas, Texas



DAN SMOOT

UNION TERRORISM

In May, 1961, the Special Investigations Subcommittee of the Senate Government Operations Committee (under the chairmanship of John L. McClellan, Arkansas Democrat) completed more than 500 public hearings. The Committee had taken testimony from more than 1500 witnesses, *concerning waste, inefficiency, strikes, and general racketeering in the government's most vital* defense effort—the missile program. Here is some of the pertinent information which those hearings produced:[1]

— Between 1957 and 1961 there were 327 strikes or work-stoppages at 22 missile bases — causing loss of 163,000 man-days of labor.

— Unions forced an abnormal 12-hour shift on contractors, rigging work hours so that they collected the regular rate of pay the first four hours, time and a half the second four hours, and double overtime the last four hours.

— Average earnings of ironworkers at Cape Canaveral, now Cape Kennedy (108 strikes, 87,000 man-days lost there between 1957 and 1961) was $520 and $611 a week (the Secretary of Defense makes $480 a week).

— An apprentice electrician, brother-in-law of a union official at Canaveral, got $673 a week, equal to the salary of the Vice President of the United States.

— Another electrician at Canaveral made as much as $748 a week — more than the combined salaries of Dr. Wernher von Braun and Vice-Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

— Pay of plumbers and pipefitters ranged from $402 to $733 a week. Electricians averaged between $413 and $670 per week.

— At Vandenberg Air Force Base, plumbers and pipefitters refused to handle manifolds that arrived preassembled. At first, they figured the amount of time required to assemble the manifolds and were permitted to sit out that time while drawing full pay. Eventually, they enforced delivery of the manifolds unassembled.

— "Common-place" wages at Canaveral were $450 to $500 a week.

— Two elevator operators, members of the Operating Engineers Union, were paid $360 a week at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT, a magazine published every week by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., mailing address P. O. Box 9538, Lakewood Station, Dallas, Texas 75214; Telephone TAylor 1-2303 (office address 6441 Gaston Avenue). Subscription rates: $10.00 a year, $6.00 for 6 months, $18.00 for two years. For first class mail $12.50 a year; by airmail (including APO and FPO) $14.50 a year. Reprints of specific issues: 1 copy for 25¢; 6 for $1.00; 50 for $5.50; 100 for $10.00 — each price for bulk mailing to one person. Add 2% sales tax on all orders originating in Texas for Texas delivery.

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— At Vandenberg, truck drivers earned $324 per week; warehouse clerks $262 per week. Common laborers earned $287 per week for digging ditches and cleaning up the premises. This is higher than earnings of full colonels in charge of the base.

— There were many instances of workers at our missile sites making as much as $26,000 a year.

— Tool rental companies were charging 300 to 500 percent of the original cost of equipment for short-term rentals.

— Much of the time lost because of strikes and stoppages is lost forever in our desperate struggle to complete a missile system.

— The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers collects a 3-percent "work-assessment" from workers' wages (even from those who are not union members). The money is deducted by employers and forwarded to the IBEW.

— Electronics companies could get their work done faster, and at less than half the cost, if they could use their own union technicians, instead of those specified by IBEW, but the Air Force urges them to comply with IBEW requirements, in order to keep "labor peace."

—Some contractors double their normal labor costs when bidding for contracts at Cape Canaveral, because of low labor productivity. Others will not bid, refusing to be a party to the racketeering.[1]

On May 26, 1961, President Kennedy and Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg, announcing the creation of a "Missiles Sites Labor Commission" (composed of representatives from labor, government, and management), said unions had agreed not to strike at missile bases.[2] This announcement resulted in a silencing or de-emphasizing of general news coverage *about* labor troubles in the missile plants, but work-stoppages and strikes have continued.[3] Most of them are incredibly absurd. For example, on April 1, 1964, a few plant guards virtually stopped all construction work at Merritt Island, Florida (the so-called moonport, where installations are being made for the complex operation of putting a man on the moon). Security guards at Merritt (belonging to a union not affiliated with AFL-CIO) picketed all approaches to Merritt Island—not because non-union guards were being hired at Merritt, but because a subcontractor has non-union security guards at his own plant. AFL-CIO construction workers refused to go to work, at an installation allegedly vital to the security of the nation, even though their own union officials had told them they were not obligated to honor the security guards' picket line.[4]

Florida Railroad Strike

The most important recent news concerning unions and our national defense involves a strike against the Florida East Coast Railway Company, which operates the railroad supplying a great complex of military posts, laboratories, production plants, testing sites, and launching pads at and near Cape Kennedy.

On January 23, 1963, approximately 1200 employees of the railroad (members of 11 non-operating unions) struck for higher wages. The company was already heavily burdened with excessive labor costs caused by low productivity of union workers and featherbedding practices. No law or contracts required the company to negotiate with the unions; so, the company temporarily ceased operations. Strikers' jobs were abolished.[5] Non-union men were hired. Supervisory personnel were shifted. The railroad was soon operating again — handling more freight-loadings with 850 non-union workers than 1200 union workers had handled before.[6]

Acts of lawless violence against railroad property, and efforts to intimidate non-union workers, began immediately. Ten months later (November 9, 1963), President Kennedy ordered an emergency board to investigate. The President said he was acting under authority of the Railway Labor Act; but that law was passed to help prevent railroad strikes, not to authorize governmental intervention in a strike which, though it had been going on almost a year, had not closed any facility vital to the public interest. Francis A. O'Neill, Jr. (National Mediation Board Chairman) said President Kennedy's order meant that the rail-

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road must re-hire the 1200 striking workers for at least 60 days. This would force the company to fire loyal, hard-working non-union men who (under combat conditions) were doing a better job than almost one and one-half times their number of union men had ever done. The company refused and, with non-union men, continued its job of serving the public interest and national defense. Vandalism, sabotage, and other forms of violence against the railroad also continued.[7]

On February 27, 1964, two dynamite blasts derailed five locomotives and 34 freight cars, wrecking the main line of the Florida East Coast railroad between Jacksonville and Miami. This violence (occurring on a day when President Johnson made a political speech only 15 miles away) caused more damage than previous acts, but was of the same kind that had been going on for more than a year. It created great excitement, however, because it was so close to the President. President Johnson ordered the FBI to investigate.[8]

On March 25, 1964, the FBI arrested John Katsikos (recording secretary of Local 555 of the Brotherhood of Railroad Car Men), charging him with being one of four men who tried to blow up a freight train near Vero Beach the night of March 12.[9] There have been no reported arrests in connection with the dynamitings of February 27, which moved the President to order FBI investigation.

In March, 1964, President Johnson's Assistant Secretary of Labor, James J. Reynolds, had a conference with an executive of the railroad and with an official of one of the striking unions. After the conference, Mr. Reynolds accused the railroad executive of "petulant adherence to a philosophy that has no place in this century." He did not mention continuing union violence against the railroad.[10]

The "philosophy" to which Florida East Coast Railway executives adhere is that neither government nor government-supported unions have a right to prevent free men from working at jobs which they choose; have no right to force employer discrimination against loyal and satisfactory workers, in favor of men who have proved themselves undesirable, unreliable, and disloyal.

Other Cases

Though the Florida East Coast railroad strike is the "labor news" most prominently in the news of late, events in that strike have been relatively mild in comparison with union behavior which has been commonplace since the federal government set union officials above and beyond the control of laws which apply to everyone else. Note some examples.

During 1963, the United Mine Workers struck the Grundy Mining Company of Tennessee. Murders, shootings, arson, and dynamitings by union forces provoked reprisals by company supporters. Guerrilla warfare prevailed in Tennessee. Local and state law enforcement took no effective action—primarily, because the federal government has arrogated to itself a monopoly of power to act in "labor disputes." The federal government did nothing, and the nation's press paid scant attention.[11] Why bother? Gangsterism — which sometimes involves violent assaults upon whole communities to make all working persons join United Mine Workers, whether they are are employed in mines or not — has been a tactic of the UMW for years.

One night in Oakland City, Indiana, union representatives drove by the trailer-home of Ronald Russell and fired seven bullets into it. One of the bullets struck Russell's infant daughter in the head. Russell's home was one of several that were dynamited and riddled with bullets in connection with a strike which the union had called against the Potter-Brumfield Manufacturing Company at Princeton, Indiana. The victims were employees who refused to strike against their employer.[12]

Leon Blackwell was a shop steward of the Teamsters Local 574. He was employed by the O. R. Burden Construction Company, working on a pipeline project near Mexico, Missouri. Lawrence A. Thompson, business agent of Local 574,

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came around one afternoon and told Blackwell to put three union members on the payroll. Blackwell refused, saying: "We don't need them. There's nothing for them to do. There's no room on the payroll." A few days later, Leon Blackwell, driving home from work, was hailed on the highway by three men who asked his help to get their car out of a ditch. When Blackwell got out to help them, the men beat him with chains, knocked him down, kicked his teeth out, and left him lying on the side of the road. The three men were union representatives, disciplining Blackwell for refusal to obey union orders.[13]

The D & W Chonowski Painting Company had a crew of men painting a bridge on Highway 50 near Olney, Illinois. One day, Oscar L. Ferrebee (an official of the AFL Operating Engineers union) showed up to demand that the company hire a union painter—or make a cash payment "to avoid physical harm" to five non-union painters working on the bridge job. The Chonowski Company refused. Shortly thereafter, approximately two dozen armed union men stopped at the bridge to inflict a little physical harm on the five painters. Two of the painters escaped. Three did not. One of the three, Marlin Moriss, age 23, was whipped with a steel cable. His face, smashed with a paint pail, was disfigured, his forehead scarred from ear to ear.[13]

The Arthur W. Terry Engineering Company had a contract to do repair work on a Mississippi River levee near Granite City, Illinois. Jack Green, business agent of Local 397, AFL Hod Carriers and Common Laborers Union, ordered Arthur W. Terry, Jr. to hire two union men whom Terry did not need. Terry refused. Jack Green marched on the project with 700 men. The Terry Engineering Company abandoned the job and moved away.[13]

Adrian W. Frazier, President of the Frazier-Davis Construction Company, St. Louis, Missouri, got a contract to put up a building for the Laclede Gas Company. Shortly after construction began, five labor leaders demanded a $50,000 pay-off as the price of "labor peace" on the job. Mr. Frazier refused to pay the union bribe—but he would have been better off financially if he had paid it. Strikes, slowdowns, payroll padding, and miscellaneous union featherbedding practices almost doubled his costs. Frazier had estimated the job at two million dollars. The job cost three and a half million dollars.[13]

In the Hawaiian Islands, the economy is controlled by communists in Harry Bridges' International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union.[14] Harry Bridges can paralyze the islands by calling a strike. Few of his strikes have anything to do with labor problems. Strikes are called to protest some court decision or act of Congress, in the same way that European communist parties call strikes for political and terroristic purposes.

In September, 1952, for example, 30,000 ILWU members staged a 24-hour walkout (in Hawaii and on the West Coast) to protest a legal decision against Harry Bridges, who was under indictment in California for lying about his membership in the communist party. The strike affected operations at the naval base in Pearl Harbor.[14]

On June 13, 1953, Harry Bridges ordered his ILWU out on strike, stopping economic activity in the islands, refusing to load military cargo for Korea (at a time when American troops were engaged in war). This strike was called to protest a federal court conviction against Jack Hall, Bridges' chief lieutenant. Hall, and six others, were convicted under the Smith Act for the communist activities of "plotting to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the U. S. Government."[14]

In 1954, a subcommittee of the House of Representatives held hearings in Hawaii. The subcommittee was studying the question of statehood for the Territory; but, because it asked questions about communist influence in the islands, Bridges ordered his union to make another protest strike.[14] He did the same thing in 1956, when the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee held hearings in Honolulu.[15] In December, 1956, the Senate Subcommittee released the following statement about Hawaii:

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"The inquiry to date leads us to the conclusions that persons whom our evidence shows to have been Communists are acting in concert in a present day conspiracy to further Soviet purposes on these islands. These people are being constantly infused with Communist propaganda from the Soviet Union and the Iron Curtain countries. These conspiratorial forces, by their control of the ILWU and the UPW [United Public Workers], exercise a farflung influence on the islands. They are in a position to choke off the flow of all oceanborne commerce on which these islands depend. They can, with the turn of purely political winds, disrupt the entire economy of the islands. They exercise an influence on the political life of the islands that is significant."[16]

It is an understatement to say that communist power, operating through unions, exercises an influence on politics in Hawaii. In 1954 (one year *after* federal court convictions against Jack Hall and others had re-emphasized communist domination of Harry Bridges' union), Bridges' candidates won 58 of 71 seats in the territorial legislature.[14] Harry Bridges and his communist cohorts controlled Hawaiian elections again in 1956.[17]

In 1957, the United States Supreme Court overturned Smith Act convictions against Jack Hall and others (on grounds that they had not committed "overt acts" to overthrow the U. S. government by force and violence).[17, 18]

In 1958, John Burns admitted that the support of Harry Bridges accounted for Democrat Party victories in the 1956 elections, and boasted that the same support would bring victory again in 1958.[17] It did. John Burns was for many years Hawaiian Territorial Delegate to the United States Congress. In 1962, after Hawaii became a state, Burns was elected Governor of Hawaii. Here are five appointments, to important state jobs, which Governor Burns is known to have made:[18]

— Burns appointed Jack Hall (regional director of ILWU, convicted under the Smith Act in 1953) a member of the Hawaii State Maritime Advisory Committee.

— Burns appointed (and on March 28, 1964, the Hawaiian State Senate confirmed) Robert Wenkam a member of the State Land Use Commission. Wenkam has been identified as a communist by two witnesses testifying under oath: one, before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in April, 1950; the other, before the U. S. District Court for Hawaii, on January 22, 1953.[18]

—Burns appointed David E. Thompson (education director of ILWU) a member of the Hawaiian Manpower Advisory Committee. Thompson has been identified as a member of the communist party (party card 74532) by a witness testifying under oath.[18]

—Burns appointed Bernard W. Stern (assistant to the president of the Teamsters and Allied Workers in Hawaii, Local 966) to the Hawaiian Manpower Advisory Committee. Sworn testimony before congressional committees has identified Stern as a communist.[18]

—Burns appointed Edward G. Rohrbough an official in the Hawaiian State Department of Accounting and General Services. Rohrbough has been a writer for such communist publications as *The People's World* and *News Masses,* and was majority stockholder of the now-defunct communist newspaper, *Honolulu Record.*[18]

A few other random samplings of union activities:

In Los Angeles, a 14-year-old boy tried to enter his father's non-union bakery, which was being picketed by members of the Bakery Workers Union (trying to force employees to join the union, against their will). Pickets hit the boy in the back of the head, knocked him down, and kicked him. The incident attracted no attention. Almost two years later, Albert Barclay (former office manager of the Bakery Workers Union) told the Senate Rackets Committee about the attack and said the union was responsible.[19]

In Paradise, Louisiana, two union members murdered 19-year-old Kenneth Peters (shot him nine times), because he refused to join their union. Peters had been a union member before, but did not want to join again, because his job was about over.[20]

In late September, 1957, members of the United Steel Workers, AFL-CIO, struck the Lone Star Steel plant at Lone Star, Texas. It was an illegal

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strike. The company (which had a no-strike clause in its contract with the union) had done nothing to provoke it—and never did find out what the strikers wanted. Union officials disclaimed responsibility, saying they had not authorized the strike—though they later admitted advising strikers to "stick together." Many employees in the plant (not knowing what the strike was about) tried to return to work, after having been kept away a few days by picket lines. More than 1000 union strikers jammed entrance gates to prevent employees who wanted to work from entering the plant. A reign of terror, which engulfed the entire community and lasted for weeks, ensued. In one week, the homes of four non-strikers and the automobiles of four others were peppered with gunfire; there were four bombings, and an uncounted number of slashed tires and automobile motors ruined because of sugar dumped in gasoline tanks. The federal government ignored the raging violence in Lone Star, Texas, although, at the same time, President Eisenhower sent a regiment of paratroopers to suppress housewives and teenagers congregated on the lawn at Central High School in Little Rock, peacefully protesting enforced integration of their school. By early November, 1957, Texas Rangers had restored law and order to the Lone Star area. Approximately 2500 union members remained out on strike; but the company (with a much-reduced work force of non-union employees, hired to replace strikers) was producing at normal rates — setting new production records in some departments.[21] *Then* the federal government intervened. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) "settled" the strike, by forcing Lone Star Steel Company to re-hire all strikers who wanted their jobs back—even though this meant firing loyal employees who had helped the company by taking jobs during the strike violence; and even though some of the strikers had been convicted in state court and sentenced to jail terms.[22]

On September 10, 1959, 40 union members, armed with clubs and iron pipes, severely mauled five non-union men in Kansas City, Missouri (employees of a Standard Oil refinery in suburban Sugar Creek). This event climaxed two months of violence by striking members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union—violence which included intimidation of non-striking workers in their homes. One worker's home was riddled by shotgun blasts. Strikers paid little attention to a state court order to limit picketing.[23]

On May 1, 1961, members of the Stockton, California, local of the Teamsters Union called on Robert Reeve, of Reeve's Milk Depot, demanding that he sign a labor contract with the Teamsters. Mr. Reeve's employees did not want to join the union; so, Mr. Reeve refused to sign. The union placed "educational pickets" in front of his place, threatening violence and, for purposes of intimidation, taking pictures of customers who crossed the picket line to buy milk. Local authorities (as is often the case) did nothing, because the federal goverment has pre-empted the field in "labor matters." Mr. Reeve asked the NLRB for help, but received none. Mr. Reeve gave up, sold his business, and moved.[24]

The Reason

Congressional committees have filled many volumes with details on cases like the ones mentioned in this *Report,* and worse: cases of murder, terrorizing of whole communities, shutting down of entire industries by a few gangsters or by a handful of union members already getting bigger salaries than they deserve, beating and maiming workers to make them obey illegal orders of union officials, embezzling union welfare funds, vice, corruption, illegal political activity — and the cooperation of employers who want "labor peace." Workers—rank-and-file members of the unions—are not generally responsible. Many are members against their will. Most are victims of, rather than parties to, the system.

How can such conditions continue — for a whole generation — in the United States? Because federal laws and policies and court decisions have made privileged persons of the officials of monopolistic unions, even those officials who are known communists and gangsters.

Next week, I shall gives details about the federal government's support of union terrorism.

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FOOTNOTES

(1) "Work Stoppages at Missile Bases," by U. S. Senator John L. McClellan (Dem., Ark.), *Congressional Record,* May 11, 1961, pp. 7314-21 (daily), 8743-9 (bound)

(2) AP dispatch from Washington, *The Dallas Times Herald,* May 26, 1961, pp. 1A, 3A

(3) *Labor Relations Newsletter,* Vol. 4, No. 7, July, 1961, pp. 1, 2; "Inside Labor," by Victor Riesel, *The Shreveport Journal,* September 20, 1962

(4) AP dispatch from Cape Kennedy, *The Dallas Morning News,* April 2, 1964, Section 1, p. 5

(5) UPI dispatch, *The Dallas Times Herald,* January 23, 1963, p. 14A

(6) "Sensing The News" by Thurman Sensing, Southern States Industrial Council, 1103-11 Stahlman Building, Nashville, Tennessee 37201, March 5, 1964, p. 2

(7) UPI story from Washington, *The Dallas Morning News,* November 11, 1963, Section 1, p. 9

(8) *U. S. News & World Report,* March 9, 1964, p. 11

(9) UPI dispatch, *The Dallas Morning News,* March 26, 1964, Section 1, p. 1

(10) *National Review,* March 10, 1964

(11) *Chattanooga News-Free Press,* reprinted in *Human Events,* September 28, 1963, p. 3

(12) *Chicago Daily Tribune,* February 14, 1957, p. 1; *The Dallas Morning News,* February 14, 1957, Section 1, p. 1; *The Dallas Times Herald,* February 14, 1957, p. 17A

(13) "How Workers Take Beatings — Brutal Ones by Racketeers," by Robert M. Lewin, *Chicago Daily News,* August 18, 1954, p. 20

(14) *Human Events,* March 19, 1955, pp. 3-4; "Washington Report," by Fulton Lewis, Jr., *The Shreveport Journal,* January 7, 1963

(15) *Chicago Daily Tribune,* December 1, 1956, Section 1, p. 8

(16) Press Release, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, December, 1956

(17) "Looking Ahead," by Dr. J. D. Bales, press release, March 12, 1958

(18) *Imua Spotlight,* Vol. 15, No. 1, February 15, 1964, and Vol. 15, No. 2, March 28, 1964, 568 Alexander Young Building, 1015 Bishop St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(19) "Says Pickets Slugged Him At Father's Shop," by Jerry Maher, *Mirror News, Los Angeles,* June 8, 1957, Part 1, p. 1

(20) "Victim Shot 9 Times, 2 Brothers Held In Union Slaying," *The New Orlean States and Item,* January 22, 1959

(21) This summation of the Lone Star Steel strike is taken from *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Dallas Times Herald,* almost daily, between September 24 and November 5, 1957.

(22) *The Dallas Times Herald,* May 13, 1958, p. 1A and July 13, 1958, p. 12A

(23) *Chicago Daily Tribune,* September 11, 1959

(24) *The Oakland Tribune,* June 30, 1961, p. 1 and July 6, 1961

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU in Dallas, getting BA and MA degrees in 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American Civilization.

In 1942, he left Harvard and joined the FBI. As an FBI Agent, he worked for three and a half years on communist investigations in the industrial Midwest; two years on FBI headquarters staff in Washington; and almost four years on general FBI cases in various parts of the nation.

In 1951, Smoot resigned from the FBI and helped start Facts Forum. On Facts Forum radio and television programs, Smoot spoke to a national audience, giving *both* sides of controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his present independent publishing and broadcasting business — a free-enterprise operation financed entirely by profits from sales: sales of *The Dan Smoot Report,* a weekly magazine; and sales of a weekly news-analysis broadcast, to business firms, for use on radio and television as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and the broadcast give only *one* side in presenting documented truth about important issues — the side that uses the American Constitution as a yardstick. The *Report* is available by subscription; and the broadcasts are available for commercial sponsorship, anywhere in the United States.

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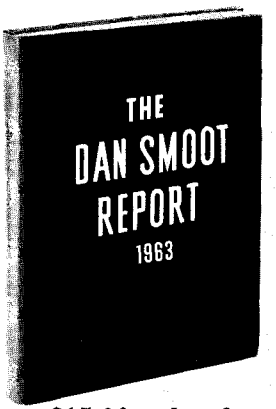

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